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Dar-es-Salaam to become a "Sustainable City"

The Government of Tanzania, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have agreed to collaborate in a project entitled "Managing Sustainable Growth and Development in Dar-es-Salaam" with the Dar-es-Salaam City Council as implementing agency and Central Government Ministries in important supporting roles.

The project will cost nearly $700,000 and will be funded as part of the UNDP country programme for Tanzania.

Deteriorating environmental conditions in and around the rapidly expanding Dar-es-Salaam present major obstacles to achieving sustained economic growth and development of the city. The detrimental effects are felt in all major economic sectors, in the living conditions of the people, and especially the urban poor. Examples include degraded natural resource systems such as water, urban air, agricultural land in the urban fringes, fuel wood, fisheries, recreation and tourism; and exacerbated environmental hazards such as environmental health risks, flooding and erosion.

The Project is part of the Sustainable Cities Programme (SCP) launched by UNCHS (Habitat) to provide municipal authorities with an improved environmental planning and management capacity which will strengthen their ability to define environmental issues, to identify available instruments to address these issues, and to involve all those concerned in a concerted and practical action. As a global programme, SCP is designed to promote the sharing of expertise and lessons of experience between cities in different regions of the world. As an inter-organizational effort, SCP mobilizes know-how, technology, and financial resources.

Since its inception in August 1990, the SCP has been well received and has made rapid progress. Currently, the Programme is exploring with some twenty cities throughout the world their possible participation. Five cities have already secured funding and have entered the project formulation stage. Dar-es-Salaam is the first city to start project activities. At the same time the Programme has established cooperative arrangements and mobilized resources with multilateral institutions such as the UNDP, the World Bank, and UNEP; bilateral agencies; NGOs and professional associations.

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